

S/N 09/240,456

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Steven W. Lundberg

Examiner: Ella Colbert

Serial No.: 09/240,456

Group Art Unit: 3624

Filed: January 29, 1999

Docket: 684.002US1

Title: IMPROVED COMPUTERIZED PATENT AND TRADEMARK FEE  
PAYMENT METHOD AND SYSTEM



*Handwritten signature and date 1/31/03*

RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR § 1.111

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

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JAN 21 2003  
**GROUP 3600**

Applicant has reviewed the Office Action mailed on October 9, 2002.

IN THE CLAIMS

The claims are not amended, but are repeated here for reference in examination:

1. A computer-implemented method for managing patent and trademark fees comprising:  
inputting identification information for a matter of a client of a firm and a requested fee  
associated with the matter for payment to an agency as data representing the identification  
information into a computer workstation;

issuing a charge for the requested fee at the computer workstation for transmittal to the  
agency, the charge payable against an account maintained by an organization separate from the  
firm for the client, the account initially funded by the client such that the account has a positive  
balance; and,

generating a client invoice including the charge for the requested fee to replenish the  
account maintained by the organization so that upon payment by the client the account  
continually retains a positive balance.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving notice of an event for the matter of the client of the firm that will require a  
second fee associated with the matter for payment to the agency by a due date;

generating a second client invoice including a charge for the requested fee to pre-fund the  
account maintained by the organization such that upon payment by the client prior to the due date